AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) An optical recording medium comprising:

a main-information area in which a metal reflection film is formed on a substrate where a row of pits is formed as main data, and in which information is to be reproduced by irradiating said metal reflection film with a beam of light;

a sub-information area in which medium identification information is to be recorded by removing said metal reflection film partially so as to form a plurality of reflection-film removed areas, wherein the medium identification information is to be used to identify the optical recording medium individually; and

a row of pits or a guide groove formed on the substrate in said sub-information area, with a track pitch of said row of pits or guide groove being at least 0.24μm wide and at most 0.45μm wide.

22. (New) The optical recording medium according to claim 21, wherein

a reflectance ratio of said metal reflection film is at least 35% and at most 70% with respect to a beam of light whose wavelength is 405 nm.

23. (New) The optical recording medium according to claim 21, wherein

said metal reflection film is made of Ag or an Ag alloy material, and

a film thickness of said metal reflection film is at least 25nm and at most 70nm.

24. (New) The optical recording medium according to claim 21, wherein

said metal reflection film is made of Al or an Al alloy material, and

a film thickness of said metal reflection film is at least 15nm and at most 40nm.

25. (New) The optical recording medium according to claim 21, wherein

if a wavelength of a beam of light of a light source used to irradiate said metal reflection film is λ and a refractive index of a resin layer which is formed on said metal reflection film is n, then a depth D of said row of pits or said guide groove formed on the substrate in said sub-information area satisfies a relational expression of $\lambda/(6\times n)\leq D\leq\lambda/(3\times n)$.

26. (New) The optical recording medium according to claim 21, wherein

a depth of said row of pits formed as the main data is equal to a depth of said row of pits or said guide groove formed on the substrate in said sub-information area.

27. (New) The optical recording medium according to claim 21, wherein

a track pitch of said row of pits formed as the main data is at least 0.24μm wide and at most 0.43μm wide, and

a shortest pit of said row of pits formed as the main data is at least 0.12μm long and at most 0.21μm long.

28. (New) The optical recording medium according to claim 21, wherein

a track pitch of said row of pits formed as the main data is equal to a track pitch of said row of pits or said guide groove formed on the substrate in said sub-information area.

29. (New) The optical recording medium according to claim 28, wherein

the track pitch of said row of pits formed as the main data and the track pitch of said row of pits or said guide groove on said substrate in said sub-information area are each at least 0.24μm wide and at most 0.43μm wide.

30. (New) The optical recording medium according to claim 21, wherein

the optical recording medium is a multi-layer optical recording medium, and

said metal reflection film comprises a plurality of laminated metal reflection films.

31. (New) The optical recording medium according to claim 21, wherein

a track pitch of said row of pits or said guide groove on the substrate in said sub-information area is at least 0.30μm wide and at most 0.40μm wide.

32. (New) A method for manufacturing an optical recording medium, comprising:

preparing a substrate on which a row of pits is formed as main data in a main-information area, and on which a row of pits or a guide groove having a track pitch that is at least 0.24μm wide and at most 0.45μm wide is formed in a sub-information area;

forming a metal reflection film on said substrate;

forming a resin layer on said metal reflection film; and

recording medium identification information, to be used to identify the optical recording medium individually, by partially removing said metal reflection film in said sub-information area so as to form a plurality of reflection-film removed areas.

33. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein

forming a metal reflection film on said substrate comprises forming on said substrate a metal reflection film having a reflectance ratio of at least 35% and at most 70% with respect to a beam of light whose wavelength is 405nm.

34. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein

forming a metal reflection film on said substrate comprises forming on said substrate a metal reflection film made of Ag or an Ag alloy material and having a film thickness of at least 25nm and at most 70nm.

35. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein

forming a metal reflection film on said substrate comprises forming on said substrate a metal reflection film made of Al or an Al alloy material and having a film thickness of at least 15nm and at most 40nm.

36. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein

preparing a substrate on which a row of pits is formed as main data in a main-information area, and on which a row of pits or a guide groove having a track pitch that is at least 0.24μm wide and at most 0.45μm wide is formed in a sub-information area, comprises preparing said substrate such that if a wavelength of a beam of light of a light source used to irradiate said metal reflection film is λ and a refractive index of said resin layer is n, then a depth D of said row of pits or said guide groove formed in said sub-information area satisfies a relational expression of $\lambda/(6\times n)\leq D\leq\lambda/(3\times n)$.

37. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein

preparing a substrate on which a row of pits is formed as main data in a main-information area, and on which a row of pits or a guide groove having a track pitch that is at least 0.24μm wide and at most 0.45μm wide is formed in a sub-information area, comprises preparing said substrate such that a depth of said row of pits formed as the main data is equal to a depth of said row of pits or said guide groove formed in said sub-information area.

38. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein

preparing a substrate on which a row of pits is formed as main data in a main-information area, and on which a row of pits or a guide groove having a track pitch that is at least 0.24μm wide and at most 0.45μm wide is formed in a sub-information area, comprises preparing said substrate such that a track pitch of said row of pits formed as the main data is at least 0.24μm wide and at most 0.43μm wide, and a shortest pit of said row of pits formed as the main data is at least 0.12μm long and at most 0.21μm long.

39. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein

preparing a substrate on which a row of pits is formed as main data in a main-information area, and on which a row of pits or a guide groove having a track pitch that is at least 0.24μm wide and at most 0.45μm wide is formed in a sub-information area, comprises preparing said

substrate such that a track pitch of said row of pits formed as the main data is equal to the track pitch of said row of pits or said guide groove formed in said sub-information area.

40. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein

preparing a substrate on which a row of pits is formed as main data in a main-information area, and on which a row of pits or a guide groove having a track pitch that is at least 0.24μm wide and at most 0.45μm wide is formed in a sub-information area, comprises preparing said substrate such that said row of pits as the main data and said row of pits or said guide groove in said sub-information area are formed simultaneously.

41. (New) A reproducing method for an optical recording medium, said optical recording medium including

(i) a main-information area in which a metal reflection film is formed on a substrate where a row of pits is formed as main data, and

(ii) a sub-information area in which formed on the substrate is a row of pits or a guide groove having a track pitch that is at least 0.24μm wide and at most 0.45μm wide, and in which is recorded medium identification information, used to identify the optical recording medium individually, by removing said metal reflection film partially so as to form a plurality of reflection-film removed areas,

said method comprising:

reproducing information by irradiating said metal reflection film with a beam of light.